

Columbia MD Family History Center Temple and Family History Consultant In-service Training Letter, July 2017

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Consultant Planner: Share It With Your Patrons

How to start

- Click on your name in the upper right corner
- Select “Settings”
- Copy “Helper Number” (near the bottom)
- Click “Get Help”
- Select Consultant Planner (last item in the list)
- Click “Add Person”
- Search for your last name
- Select yourself
- Paste your helper number
- Enter your username (or birthday, one or the other)
- Click “Add to Planner”

This procedure will allow your patrons to see the Consultant Planner and take advantage of all of its utility. For consultants/staff, I suggest that you add yourself and play with the planner as a way of preparing to help others.

FamilySearch: Attaching Marriages and Census records to Many People

One of the advantages of using the 1.5 Billion indexed records in FamilySearch (in comparison to Ancestry and the other partners) is that it is possible to attach the same Census or marriage record to all of the people mentioned in the record rather simply. For this reason, when I cannot find someone in the FamilySearch census records, but I do find them in Ancestry (or one of the other partners), I use the information in the record I found to return to FamilySearch to find and attach the record, not only to the person in the query, but also to the other members of a family.

Attaching a marriage record to the bride and groom is straightforward. Normally, when the names are included, attaching the record to one set of parents is also straightforward, and there is a way to attach to the other set as well. In the left column, click on the “change person” icon, then select the bride or groom, whichever is listed second in the couple. The result is that the parents of the other is listed above the spouse and the parents now show up above the couple, where they can be attached (or you can create new people in FamilySearch if necessary).

Choosing Which “Partner Program” to Use

When consultants are asked for help it getting access to a free account in one or more of the five partner programs, <https://familysearch.org/partneraccess> is the URL. The patron will need to choose a username and password for each of the partners.

Here is a summary of the strengths of the partners:

Ancestry.com --near world coverage, some “non-traditional” record types

FindMyPast.com -- Focus on the UK and Ireland; in the process of indexing all US marriages in the 1800s. Given access to Catholic records in the US, Canada and the UK.

MyHeritage.com --

AmericanAncestors.com -- Colonial New England

Geneanet.com -- Western Europe

Merging: Be a Tour Guide

When families visit the “Discovery Center” in the Family History Center, they are shown how to identify which members of their family have duplicate records (using FindaRecord.com). They are advised that merging is sometimes tricky and if they go into that jungle, take a guide. We mean, of course, a Temple and Family History Consultant. If a consultant needs help

getting ready to help a patron, the more experienced consultants should be asked for help. We encourage all consultants to become confident in this skill because there are so many profiles that need to be merged.

End of Microfilm Era

The announcement that the last day to order microfilms and microfiche from the Family History Department marks the beginning of the end of an era. Salt Lake has advised us that the disposition of the films and the readers will be left to the Directors of the Family History Centers and their Priesthood Leaders. As far as the Columbia Family History center is concerned, our current plan is to retain all microfilms and microfiche until at least the end of 2020 when the Family History Department anticipates completing the digitization of all microfilms. An effort will be made to keep the microfilm readers functioning until that time, recognizing that repairs may become impractical at some point. Fortunately, as the digitization progresses, the need for readers will decrease.

One patron called to inquire what the status would be for the 12 films he had paid to rent indefinitely. He was assured that his films will continue to be available until at least December 2020. Of broader interest, the Loudon Cemetery films will also be retained under this policy..

Of interest, the London, England Family History Center has already donated its films and readers to another genealogical organization and is no longer in the microfilm business.

Because the films ordered between now and 13 August will not be returned to Salt Lake City, the short-term rate is being charge for all films, even though they will be retained long term.